

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 MC-02

ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /148 W
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R 301714 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5430

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUACKCHOTT

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, MO, SP

SUBJECT: GOS- GOM FISHING DISPUTE

REF: RABAT 1340 (NOTAL)

1. WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF MARCH 29 YA, MADRID PRESS EVIDENTLY RESPECTING FONMIN' S REQUEST TO HELP IMPROVE CLIMATE OF GOS- GOM RELATIONS. SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE OMITTED MENTION OF MOROCCO, WHILE OTHERS REPORTED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH BARCELONA' S " NOTICIERO UNIVERSAL" IN WHICH LOPEZ BRAVO CLARIFIED THAT OFFICIAL GOS- GOM NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROKEN OFF AT SPANISH INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC AND WRITTEN REQUEST BY SPANISH FISHING INTERESTS. (BEGIN UNDERLINE) NOTE: (END UNDERLINE) THIS ACCOUNT CONTRASTS WITH IMPRESSION GIVEN EARLIER BY SPANISH PRESS THAT SUSPENSION OF TALKS WAS RESULT OF MOROCCAN INTRANSIGENCE.

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2. YA, AFTER FEATURING MOROCCAN THEMES MARCH 29, DROPPED THE SUBJECT ENTIRELY ON MARCH 30. THURSDAY' S FRONT PAGE FEATURED COMMERCE MINISTER BENSLIMAN' S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW TO INITIATE WORK OF SOVIET- MOROCCAN JOINT COMMITTEE. " WARMTH OF MUSCOVITE WELCOME WAS SO ELOQUENT AS TO REQUIRE NO COMMENT" ACCORDING TO TANGIER CORRESPONDENT GOMEZ- SALOME. INTERPRETIVE ARTICLE SAID USSR OBVIOUSLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HASSAN' S BOLD POLICY OF WRESTING INITIATIVE FROM OPPOSITION ON POPULAR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

3. LEADING EDITORIAL SAME DAY ENTITLED " RUSSIAN INTRIGUES IN MOROCCO" CONTINUED YA' S CONCERN OVER " GRAVE CONSEQUENCES" OF MOVES GOM TAKING UNDER PRESSURE OF INTERNAL DISCORD, AND WARNED MOROCCANS TO RESPECT INTERESTS OF OTHERS WHILE STAYING WITHIN NORMS OF ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC USAGE. EDITORIAL ADDED THAT RUSSIA SELLING GOM DOZEN FAST PATROL BOATS ARMED WITH ROCKET LAUNCHERS, AND PREPARING TO TAKE DOMINANT ROLE IN MOROCCAN FISHING INDUSTRY, ALL AS PART OF SCHEME TO FORCE GOM TO BREAK TIES WITH US AND ESTABLISH PERMANENT SOVIET PRESENCE IN STRAITS AND ALONG ATLANTIC COAST OF NW AFRICA.

4. AN OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS AGENCY (CIFRA) DISPATCH SAID ALL SPANISH FISHING VESSELS PROCEEDING FROM AFRICAN COAST MUST HENCEFORTH CALL AT ARRECIFE (CANARY ISLANDS) PRIOR TO PROCEEDING TO PENINSULAR PORTS. THEY WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES ATTESTING THEIR CATCH FROM SPANISH WATERS (PRESUMABLY CANARY AND SAHARAN) AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO MOROCCAN INTERFERENCE.

5. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INFLUENTIAL CIVIL WAR VETERANS ORGANIZATION ALFERECES PROVISIONALES MARCH 26 DEMANDED VIGOROUS SPANISH ACTION IN FISHING DISPUTE WITH MOROCCO. PRESIDENT OF DOMINANT MADRID CHAPTER TOLD EMBOFF FONMIN' S MARCH 26 TRIP TO RABAT " DEGRADED" SPAIN. HE PROPOSED SPANISH NAVY DESTROY TWO OR THREE MOROCCAN PATROL BOATS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE. SIMILAR SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED TO DAO BY HIGH RANKING SPANISH NAVAL OFFICER.

6. COMMENT: NATIONALIST SPANISH SENTIMENTS FORM IMPORTANT PART OF BACKDROP FOR FONMIN' S PROBLEM IN CONFRONTING GOS- GOM ISSUES. CHAUVINISTS RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT FUTILITY OF USING FORCE AGAINST WHAT THEY CONSIDER INDIGNITIES TO SPAIN WHEN " TRANGRESSORS" ARE MORE POWERFUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(AS, E. G., BRITISH AT GIBRALTAR). IN CASE OF CONFRONTATION

WITH WEAKER POWER, THEIR FIRE- EATING IS MORE DIFFICULT
TO REPRESS.

7. ATTITUDE OF YA INFLUENCED BY PERSISTENT RIGHT- CATHOLIC
ANTIPATHY TO LOPEZ BRAVO AND POLITICAL RIVALRY WITH TECHNOCRAT
FACTION IN GOS.
RIVERO

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